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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Council split on payment for 40B

By Michael Ballway  
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Citing pressure from constituents opposed to an affordable housing development on Mill Street, city councilors are divided on whether to give half a million dollars to the project — or any taxpayer money at all.

“It’s a slap in the taxpayers’ faces,” said Councilor George Bitzas. “I, personally, am not giving one single penny to this developer. ... I’ve had very, very many phone calls, and people who stop me in the restaurant, and they’re not happy about this.”

“The reality is, we have a need for affordable housing,” countered Council President Christopher Johnson. “This is the first affordable housing project being proposed in Agawam in 40 years. ... This is our opportunity to put our money where our mouth is.”

HOUSING | page 11



Above: A trio of sixth graders — from left, Eva Montagna, Kiley Lukas and Makayla Rosario — pretend to sing during last Friday’s Basement Bash at Doering School. Story and more photos, page 8. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

## Singing basement

Right: Trying to outperform the girls in a musical competition, a group of sixth grade boys had no shame as they moved furniture and musical instruments around the room.



### STATE OF THE CITY

## Streets, dispatch, blight on mayor’s 2020 docket

By Michael Ballway  
[mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com)

Mayor William Sapelli touted a faster Morgan-Sullivan Bridge project as just one of his accomplishments during a speech to the City Council on Tuesday.

He said he was proud of having lobbied Gov. Charlie Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to authorize a \$1.5 million incentive payment to the contractor to finish construction work 10 months ahead of schedule.

To earn the payout, Northern Construction will have to finish work by August 2021, rather than May 2022. That would mean nearly a year less of economic impact on nearby businesses, and — crucially — it would mean the full bridge would be open for the 2021 Eastern States Exposition.

“It’s all good news, and it took a lot of politicking to get it done,”



Mayor William Sapelli delivers his State of the City address at the Feb. 18 City Council meeting. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

Sapelli said.

The 1946 bridge, which connects Memorial Avenue in West Springfield with Main, Springfield and Suffield streets in Agawam,

SAPELLI | page 7

### SUMMER SCHOOL

## Lower enrollment prompts fee hike proposal

By Mike Lydick  
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Maintaining a summer school program that is viable for students and competitive with other summer schools will require several changes for 2020 — including a higher fee — according to the program’s director.

The majority of students take summer courses because they received a failing grade and were denied credit in a course during the regular school year. Speaking to the School Committee last week, Summer School Director Dominic Costanzi said that despite the need for the program, there has been a decline in enrollment.

Agawam is one of just a few districts in the area that offers a summer program for students in junior high and high school. In addition to Agawam students, the program serves students from nearby districts, such as Southwick and Suffield, that don’t offer a summer school.

According to Costanzi, the



Speaking to the School Committee last week, Agawam Summer School Director Dominic Costanzi said a fee hike for students and other changes are needed to keep the program “viable.” PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

number of students who attend summer school fluctuates and can be hard to predict, primarily because of out-of-district enrollment.

“Courses do run dependent on enrollment,” he said.

To cover the cost of each inde-

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## CORRECTION

The description of the 1970 shootings of protesting students at Kent State University was incorrect in the Yesterday's Hometown News column on page 7 of the Agawam Advertiser News on Feb. 6. The students were fired upon by the Ohio National Guard.

## NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

## Q & AGAWAM

# Photographs have been a lifelong project for her

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

**D**iane Savioli-Chase is a familiar face around Agawam. Not only has she lived in Feeding Hills for 34 years, but she's also a regular entrant in the annual Open Juried Photography Show — currently on display at the Agawam Public Library — and has held her own exhibitions in the library, as well.

**Q: How many pieces did you enter?**

**A:** I entered four pieces, and I usually only do two pieces at the most. But this year I liked my photos, so I figured, why not? I put some of my photos for sale, and I try to keep them reasonably priced. I've actually not sold a photo lately; I was able to sell a photo from a different project at another gallery. I've entered this show a few times, I really enjoy it and I'll probably enter next year, too. I actually thought that a different piece that I entered would have won something, but a different piece received an honorable mention. I'm so honored to even receive an honorable mention, because there are really good photographers that enter into the show. I've gotten three honorable mentions before, I've gotten third place and once I got first place.

**Q: Have you entered in other art shows?**

**A:** Actually, there's this run-on show that starts in the fall, and this past October I was in two other shows. One was at the Jewish Community Center in Longmeadow. They have an annual show there and I've entered for as long as I've known about it. And then

the other is the Red Thread Arts, that has a photography show, this past year was their third show and I entered all three years. I'm also involved in the Valley Photo Center, which is in Springfield, they have featured photographers every month and the host an open submissions show twice a year. I enter into that as well. You can enter however many you want for a small fee and the show isn't juried.

**Q: What's your favorite thing to photograph?**

**A:** It was street photography, but I really enjoy travel photography. I like taking pictures of ice cream signs. Some of the signs are three-dimensional, some are kind of like sculptures, or some have very unique designs, and I've had that exhibit at the Agawam library, the Chicopee library, Longmeadow library and the Springfield library. I just love travel photography and photographing different architecture, and different people in their societies. That really includes candid, and I enjoy candid. This past October I went to Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and Slavonia. I have photos from that and I going through them right



### Diane Savioli-Chase

**Why you should know her:** She entered four pieces to this year's Open Juried Photography Show and was the only Agawam resident to receive an honorable mention. She's lived in Feeding Hills for 34 years.

**Favorite thing about Feeding Hills:** "I like that it's small, not a big city and still rural."

now, but I'm not really a landscape or nature photographer, I love people and architecture.

**Q: Have you ever created a photo book?**

**A:** I had thought about it before, and I haven't had a published one but I do make small booklets for myself or someone close to me. They're time-consuming and I know the process a bit, but I haven't really had the time or energy to do it. I was also thinking of making a website for my photography; I actually contacted a fellow photographer and asked for his help, but there are more steps than I imagined. I have to come up with a name and then put it together, and keep up with it. I haven't put the thought into a name. I'm just not clever with words, and so that never happened, although I do post my photos on social media — mostly Facebook, and I post some photos on Instagram.

**Q: How long have you been pursuing photography?**

**A:** Well, one of my first photography experiences was when I was a little girl, my grandparents took me to Italy for two months, and in every picture I'm holding this film camera. It's a

Brownie camera, and I carried it around everywhere. So I've been taking photos for a really long time; I did it as a child and then in the '80s I did a project with some friends, where went around New England and took pictures of textile mills. It was pretty serious work for about three or four years, and the person who gathered us wanted to create a photo book of our work. That didn't come to life, but we were able to print the photos and have an exhibit as the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, which is now the Dr. Seuss Museum.

**Q: What are some of your other exhibits?**

**A:** I've had several exhibits at the Agawam library of just my photos, so that's fun. Just this past October, one of the women that I travel and photograph with, we had an exhibit of our photographs from Cuba. So those photos have been in the Chicopee library, Forbes [Northampton] library, Springfield library, and they'll be up in the Hampden library by the end of this month. It's a traveling exhibit, and the libraries have been very good about hanging my pictures, and letting them get exposure. I'll be taking a trip to Scotland this upcoming October. I'm very excited for that and I'll probably have an exhibit for those photos. I haven't ever been to Scotland, so it'll be interesting to go there.

**Q: What are some of your photography projects?**

**A:** I travel about once a year, I take a big trip and I do travel photographs. I make a project out of every trip I take. I usually go with my photographer friend, and she loves birds, so I have a few pictures of birds. I went to Alaska a few years ago and I still have pictures from that trip, though we actually went to Cuba twice, so the Cuba project has many photos to it. I'm currently going through the pictures of my last trip, so I might do an exhibit with those. I did the one project where I took photos of road-

side memorials; I have gone across the country photographing them. Even now, if I see one and it catches my eye, and if I'm able to safely pull over, I'll take a picture. My husband will see one and then tell me about it and that I have to see it. I just think they're interesting. It's sad, of course, but there's something beautiful about them, too.


**Q: What's something surprising that happens behind the lens?**

**A:** Well, I love street photography, because I like people and architecture. When I worked at Hartford Hospital I used to walk down the street and around the block or go down near McDonald's, and I would see things I liked and take pictures. I would take pictures of street people, and sometimes people would ask for money for food or the bus, so I would give them some money in exchange for their picture. I would barter for my pictures, more or less, and as I keep doing it and interacting with people, I would learn their stories and background, and it was very interesting for me. I don't do it as much anymore, but it translates into travel photography I do. I like to grab candid photos of people in the streets of the places I visit.


**Q: What do you do for work?**

**A:** I'm retired. I used to do OB-GYN ultrasounds at Hartford Hospital, and it was the best job in the world. It was a small office with two people, and originally I worked at a private office in Springfield. I then went to Hartford and I worked in their high-risk department, and then they wanted someone to work full-time in their women's health office, so I went there. I liked it, and I loved looking at the babies. It was — as I called it — internal portrait photography. It was great because my daughter came in while she was pregnant, and I was able to do an ultrasound of my granddaughter, and I have those pictures. I still take pictures of her, too.

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# Early voting next week in primaries for president, state senator

By Michael Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

Voting in Massachusetts’ presidential primary, and in the special primary election for state Senate, begins Monday in Agawam.

The Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow and Libertarian parties are holding elections to determine which candidates Massachusetts delegates will support for U.S. president in 2020. On a separate ballot available at the same time, voters in the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District will also choose nominees for a special mid-term election to fill the seat vacated by former state Sen. Donald Humason. The 11-town district stretches from Chicopee to Tolland and includes all of Agawam.

Early voting polls will be open at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Feb. 24-28, with additional evening hours until 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. Any registered voter in town may participate. Unlike absentee voting, this early voting period does not require a medical, religious or travel-based exemption.

Registered voters have the option to

request an early voting ballot through the mail. Applications are available at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele). They may be filled out and mailed to Town Clerk, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Those who do not vote in the early voting period can cast their ballots on Tuesday, March 3, at the usual precinct polling places in Agawam and Feeding Hills.

Participants in early voting, like voters on March 3, will be able to vote in the presidential primary election, as well as the primary for the special state senate election. Registered members of the Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow and Libertarian parties can vote on their party’s ballot; political independents (“unenrolled”) can choose to vote on any party’s primary ballot.

Those who select Democratic ballots can choose from 15 candidates in the presidential primary. Listed in ballot order, they are former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Minnesota U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Hawaii U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, New Jersey U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, former San Antonio, Texas, Mayor Julian Castro, California

hedge fund manager Tom Steyer, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, former Maryland U.S. Rep. John K. Delaney, New York entrepreneur Andrew Yang, former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and California author Marianne Williamson. Booker, Castro, Delaney, Patrick, Williamson and Yang appear on ballots even though they are no longer actively campaigning.

On the same ballot as the presidential primary, voters will also decide a contested race for Democratic state committeeman for the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire Senate District, between Raymond M.P. Drewnowski of Holyoke and David George Morin of Agawam. There is only one candidate for Democratic state committeewoman, Marjorie R. Duneheew of Holyoke. On a separate ballot for the special local primary election, John C. Velis of Westfield is the only Democratic candidate for state Senate.

Republican ballots for the presidential primary will include, in ballot order, former Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld, former Illinois U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh, incumbent President Donald J. Trump, and California businessman Roque “Rocky” de la Fuente. Walsh appears on ballots even though he has suspended his campaign.

Richard A. Berrena of Holyoke is the only name on local ballots for Republican state committeeman; Linda Vacon of Holyoke is the sole candidate for Republican state committeewoman. In the separate state Senate primary election, John Francis Cain of Southwick is the one Republican candidate.

Green-Rainbow ballots for the presidential primary will include Dario Hunter, Sednam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry, Kent Mesplay and Howard Hawkins. There are no candidates on Agawam Green-Rainbow ballots for state committee or state senator.

Libertarian ballots for the presidential primary will include Arvin Vohra, Vermin Love Supreme, Jacob George Hornberger, Samuel Joseph Robb, Dan Taxation is Theft Behrman, Kimberly Margaret Ruff, Kenneth Reed Armstrong, Adam Kokesh, Jo Jorgensen and Max Abramson. There are no candidates on Agawam Libertarian ballots for state committee or state senator.

Agawam residents can check their voter registration status at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele), or call the town clerk’s office at 413-786-0400, ext. 8215. The last day to register to vote, or change parties, in time for the primary election was Feb. 12.

## Legion will honor boy who rescued sister

Bradford deVillier will receive the National Hero Award this weekend from the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary. Unit 185 from Agawam will be giving deVillier the award. The ceremony is 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at American Legion Post 185 on Springfield Street in Agawam.

DeVillier was 14 years old when he was working at the concession stand during a field hockey game

last October. His 21-year-old sister started choking on some candy and he immediately went to her side to perform the Heimlich maneuver to save her life. DeVillier is a young Marine and the American Legion has invited some officials to attend the award ceremony on Sunday. The American Legion Auxiliary will also be celebrating its 100th birthday, and invites all to celebrate with them.

## AHS sports hall of fame looking for nominations

The committee for the Agawam Athletic Hall of Fame is currently accepting nominations for athletes, coaches, and contributors to the sports programs at Agawam High School worthy of induction in 2020. These male and female athletes, coaches, or contributors should be of exceptional quality who have earned

regional or state recognition in their sports.

Guidelines for nominees and the procedure to follow when making such nominations may be viewed at [www.agawamed.org/high/athletics](http://www.agawamed.org/high/athletics), or applications may be picked up in person in the Athletic Department office at the high school, 760 Cooper St., Agawam.

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## Town of Agawam

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

### HAMPDEN SS.

To either of the constables of the Town of Agawam.

### GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

- Precinct 1: Robinson School, 65 Begley Street
- Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street
- Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street
- Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street
- Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street
- Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street
- Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street
- Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

on TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH 2020,  
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primaries for the candidates for the following offices:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE  
STATE COMMITTEE MAN  
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN  
WARD OR TOWN COMMITTEE

FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
CITY OR TOWN

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting. Given under our hands this third day of February 2020.

Vincent Gioscia  
Town Clerk





A French meat pie dinner on March 5 will benefit the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street in Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Meat pie dinner to raise funds for upkeep of Leonard House

All are invited to a “tavern dinner” fundraiser next month at Agawam’s historical Captain Charles Leonard House.

A hearty French meat pie dinner will be served continuously 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 5. The main course, salad, dessert, and beverage will be served by the all-volunteer board of trustees and friends of the Captain Leonard House. Meals will also be available for takeout.

A donation of \$15 per adult and \$10 per

child, age 12 and younger, is suggested, with proceeds to aid in the preservation of the National Register-listed Captain Leonard House at 663 Main St., Agawam.

The Captain Leonard House, built in 1805 as a stagecoach tavern, is considered to be Agawam’s finest Federal-era home, and is available to rent for business functions and social events. For information about rentals, call 413-786-9421 or visit captainleonardhouse.com/facilities.

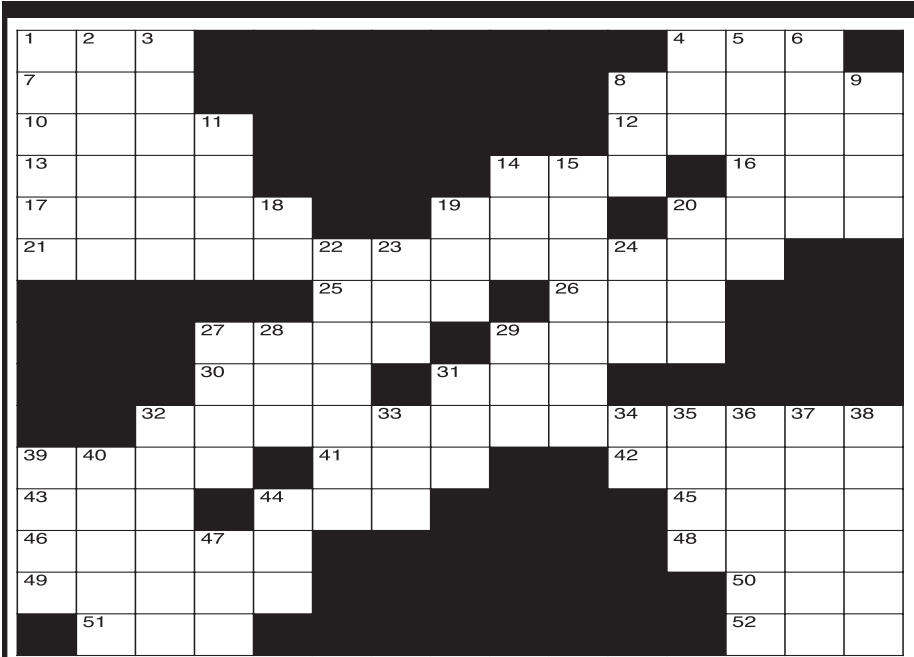
# K of C to serve fish on Fridays in Lent

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will host fish dinners at Sacred Heart Parish on Friday evenings in Lent.

They will serve baked fish, French fries, coleslaw, beverage and dessert 5-7 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, and April 3, at the church at 1061 Spring-

field St., Feeding Hills. The cost is \$10 per person. Take-out is available.

Proceeds will assist the Knights of Columbus in their corporal and spiritual works of mercy, such as pro-life works, supporting churches, etc.



- CLUES ACROSS**  
1. Expression of disgust  
4. A place to unwind  
7. A type of cooking range  
8. Grasp tightly  
10. Sea eagles  
12. Carb dish  
13. Late-night host  
14. Revolutions per minute  
16. Indicates odd or erroneous  
17. FDR’s military chief of staff  
19. Swiss river  
20. Norwegian district and river  
21. A form of motivation  
25. Car mechanics group  
26. Once a must-have home theater accessory  
27. Broken branch
29. Apple and pumpkin are two  
30. Skeletal muscle  
31. Small Eurasian deer  
32. Tight-lipped fellow  
39. Comes after a cut  
41. A place one lives  
42. Cognizant of  
43. Albanian monetary unit  
44. Carrot’s partner  
45. Famed garden  
46. Chilean seaport  
48. Days (Spanish)  
49. Sudden anxiety  
50. 100 square meters  
51. A type of beer  
52. French/Belgian river
- CLUES DOWN**  
1. Spanish dish  
2. Concurs  
3. \_\_\_ and her sisters
4. Patti Hearst’s captors  
5. Used to refer to cited works  
6. A state of excited movement  
8. Advertising term (abbr.)  
9. Nocturnal S. American rodent  
11. New York art district  
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!  
15. Pre-release viewing  
18. Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)  
19. Consumed  
20. Falters  
22. Radioactive form of an element  
23. Catch a wrongdoer  
24. Breeze through
27. Thick piece of something  
28. Yellowish-brown color  
29. “The Raven” poet  
31. Rural free delivery (abbr.)  
32. Creating  
33. Supervises flying  
34. Northwestern state  
35. Was obligated to repay  
36. Diverging in lines from a common center  
37. Bleak  
38. We all have them  
39. Hit with the palm of one’s hand  
40. Sea that’s part of the western Pacific  
44. Political action committee  
47. Famed Spanish soldier El \_\_\_

# Divorce, grief counseling groups starting next month at Bethany

Divorce Care and Divorce Care for Kids are weekly seminars and support groups for families who are separated or divorced. These groups meet in Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam, each Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

This year the groups begin on March 4, and will run for 13 weeks. Newcomers are welcome at any time, even if they miss the first few weeks. There is a one-time registration fee of \$15 for materials (scholarships are available).

Anyone who has lost a loved one, or who

knows someone who has, is welcome to join the weekly GriefShare support group every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. at Bethany. The groups will begin on March 4, and will run for 13 weeks, with new members welcome at any time. There is a one-time registration fee of \$15 for materials (scholarships are available).

Information on all three support groups is available at the Hospitality Counter in the main foyer of the church, or online at Bethany-AG.org.

# Travelers planning day trips, cruises

Penny’s Travelers is planning several trips for 2020 and 2021 from the Agawam Senior Center. Upcoming trips include:

Sunday, May 3: “The Producers” at the Warner Theatre, \$91 per person.

May 27-29: Pennsylvania Dutch Show Stopper, \$589.

Tuesday, June 9: Indian Princess with lakeside lunch, \$87.

Thursday, July 16: “On Golden Pond” at the Newport Playhouse, \$101.

Thursday, Aug. 6: Lobster lunch and Mohegan Sun, \$97.

August (date to be determined): Saratoga, N.Y., with lunch at Grandma’s Restaurant, \$92.

Thursday, Sept. 10: Guided tour of the Quabbin Reservoir with lunch at Salem Cross Inn, \$70.

Sept. 16-18: Pearls of the White Moun-

tains, \$745.

Sept. 27-28: Cape Cod Escape, \$352.

Oct. 8-23: Mediterranean and Greek island cruise, from \$3,479.

Friday, Oct. 9: Green Mountain Flyer train and lunch, \$94.

Friday, Oct. 16: Friesians of Majesty and lunch, \$88.

Thursday, Dec. 3: Christmas in the Berkshires with lunch at the Red Lion Inn, \$94.

May 6-15, 2021: Pacific coastal cruise with two nights in Los Angeles, from \$2,599.

All trip costs include gratuities. Overnight and cruise trips include insurance. For day trips, a \$25 deposit is due upon registration; deposits for cruises vary. Final payment is due 45 days before the trip. For more information or to sign up for a trip, call Penny at 413-519-7223.

## SUMMER ■ from page 1

pendent class, an enrollment of about nine students is required to meet the hourly rate one teacher receives for 40 hours of work.

He said the program barely made a “profit” of \$155 in 2018. Last summer, it recorded a deficit of more than \$5,000. Costanzi explained that any excess funds are kept in the summer school account to help in situations where the money collected from student fees doesn’t cover the cost of the program.

Costanzi said the \$150 per course paid by both Agawam and out-of-district students needs to be increased for 2020. He wants to not only increase the fee, but also create a two-tier fee structure, with out-of-district students paying more.

If approved by the School Committee, Agawam students would pay \$160 per course, while out-of-district students would be charged \$175 per course. He told the committee this would be the first fee increase for the summer program since 2014, when the fee was hiked by \$10.

Fiscally independent from the regular school budget, the program relies on student enrollment fees for its funding. He added that the fee increase would “better financially insulate” the program.

“It’s important we have a summer program for our students,” said Costanzi. He said summer school helps keep graduation rates high by allowing students to make up lost credits prior to the start of the next school year. This helps to keep them at the same grade level as their peers, and increases their likelihood of graduating on time.

In addition, Costanzi is proposing a decrease in the per-course instructional hours to 32 hours from the current 40 hours. He said this change would reduce the costs for teacher wages, the program’s largest expense.

Currently, summer school is offered for 20 days with two two-hour sessions per day.

“We would look to prune that back by eight hours per course to essentially run the summer school program Monday through Thursday for four weeks, as opposed to Monday through Friday. That would allow us to make enough money for the program to remain viable,” said Costanzi.

For comparison, he said Westfield provides 30 instructional hours per course and charges \$140 for residents and \$160 for non-residents. Enfield provides 49 instruc-

tional hours per course with a \$250 fee for residents and \$265 for nonresidents.

## ‘Huge decrease’

Students earn one credit for each course they complete. Since the program runs in two sessions, they can receive up to two credits by taking one course in the first session and another one in the second session.

But the number of credits doesn’t always correlate to the number of students enrolled. Also, students who take summer courses don’t receive credit unless they previously took the course in the regular school year.

In 2018, Agawam students attending summer school received 126 credits, while out-of-district students received 53 credits. In 2019, there was a “huge decrease,” as Agawam students received 85 credits. However, out-of-district credits increased to 72 credits.

“Unfortunately, that increase wasn’t enough to offset costs. We had a net loss that the summer school account was able to cover. But this obviously is a trend that won’t be sustainable for the future,” said Costanzi.

While 2019 may have been “an odd year,” he said the turnover is a challenge that makes it difficult to prepare for the upcoming summer program. Summer school starts in July and students need to register by the end of June.

School Superintendent Steve Lemanski said he plans to bring proposed changes to the committee for discussion and a vote at a future meeting. If approved, the changes will be effective for the upcoming summer school sessions.

Costanzi has been summer school director the past two years. Currently interim lead teacher at Robinson Park School, he was previously an English teacher at Agawam High School for eight years.

As summer school director, he assists in hiring staff, setting the schedule and locations of classes, notifying area schools of Agawam’s program, enrolling students, and making deposits into the summer school account.

Once the sessions begin, he serves as administrator, handling any disciplinary issues and working with students, teachers, and parents to ensure students have access to the curriculum. At the end of each session, Costanzi notifies local guidance departments about students from their schools who took courses in Agawam.



# Supt. plans to retire in June

By Michael Ballway  
mballway@turley.com

School Superintendent Steven Lemanski plans to retire at the end of this June, the mayor announced on Tuesday.

Mayor William Sapelli, who was Lemanski's predecessor as school chief, shared the news during his State of the City address at the Feb. 18 City Council meeting.

"We'd like to thank Mr. Lemanski for his years of service," Sapelli said.

Lemanski was not available for comment before the Agawam Advertiser News went to press on Wednesday.

He was hired as school superintendent in May 2017, taking office July 1 of that year, immediately after Sapelli retired. Lemanski was previously the principal of Agawam High School for 10 years, and assistant principal at AHS for three years before that.

A Chicopee native, Lemanski started his education career in that city as a health and physical education teacher, rising to department supervisor and athletic director at Chicopee Comprehensive High School before coming to Agawam in 2007.

He was Agawam's second superintendent in a row to be promoted from within. The other finalist in 2017, Allison LeClair,



Steven Lemanski

was also an internal candidate but no longer works in Agawam. It will be the School Committee's task to set the parameters of the search for the next superintendent, and to make a hiring decision.

Lemanski is Agawam's 14th school superintendent. His three-year term will be the shortest for an Agawam school chief since Louis Hebert in 1979-81. Sapelli served six years in office, following Mary Czajkowski's nine years and Frank Ameruso's six years.



## 'Drive-thru' blessings for Ash Weds.

Agawam United Methodist Church at 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills, will again offer a "drive-thru" Ash Wednesday blessing. Pastor Ken Blanchard will offer ashes for people of any and all Christian denominations from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Agawam UMC in the circular driveway in front of the church.

In addition to anointing foreheads with ashes, the blessing will include a scripture reading and a brief prayer. This is being offered instead of a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service inside the building. For more information, visit [www.agawamworship.org](http://www.agawamworship.org).

## Chamber lunch to give business tips

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will hold a Lunch and Learn event, "The State of Small Business in Western Mass.," this month.

The lunchtime talk, co-hosted with the East of the River Chamber of Commerce, is 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at Springfield Country Club in West Springfield. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn how small businesses can deal with rising labor costs and new laws in Massachusetts, and learn what resources

are available to support local businesses.

The keynote speaker is Beth Yohai, vice president of business development for AIM (Associated Industries of Massachusetts) HR Solutions. The premier sponsor for this event is OMG Inc. of Agawam. Tickets are \$35 for Chamber members and \$45 for non-members. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, visit [westoftheriverchamber.com](http://westoftheriverchamber.com) or call the West of the River Chamber of Commerce office at 413-426-3880.

## Join parish for 'Dinner with the Saints'

Sacred Heart Parish will host "Dinner with the Saints," St. Patrick and St. Joseph, Saturday, March 14, at 5 p.m.

Dinner will include corned beef and cabbage, carrots, Irish soda bread and a dessert. Takeout will be available. Tickets are \$15 per person. To reserve a ticket, call Dan at 413-786-0489. Sacred Heart is at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

## Library pajama drive running to March 14

The Agawam Public Library will partner with the Boston Bruins to collect new children's and teen pajamas from Feb. 1 to March 15.

These pajamas will then be given to local Department of Children and Families agencies and distributed to families who need them. Pajamas may be dropped off after Feb. 1 in the Children's Room at the library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

### POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 387 calls for service Feb. 10-16, and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

#### Monday, Feb. 10

Paul Robert Housand II, 27, of 91 Walnut St., Agawam, was arrested at 9:19 p.m. on Walnut Street on a warrant.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 11

Reynaldo Torres, 43, of 63 Annable St., Agawam, was arrested at 10:30 p.m. on Springfield Street and charged with driving

without a license and driving without an inspection sticker.

#### Thursday, Feb. 12

Matthew Mark Forgue, 37, of 203 Corona St., Springfield, was arrested at 6:48 p.m. on Mill Street and charged with driving with a suspended license and speeding.

#### Saturday, Feb. 15

Nicholas J. Kapper, 25, of 196 Beauregard Terrace, Chicopee, was arrested at 3:05 a.m. on Silver Street on a warrant, and also charged with driving with a suspended license, making an improper turn, and a vehicle lights violation.

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### STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

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- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
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Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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## Town of Agawam

36 Main Street  
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001-1837

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

### HAMPDEN SS.

To either of the constables of the Town of Agawam.

### GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

- Precinct 1: Robinson School, 65 Begley Street
- Precinct 2: Clifford M. Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street
- Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street
- Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street
- Precinct 5: Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main Street
- Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street
- Precinct 7: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street
- Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

on TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 2020,  
from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Special State Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

SECOND HAMPDEN &  
HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting. Given under our hands this third day of February, 2020.

Vincent Gioscia  
Town Clerk



# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Opinion

### OUR VIEW

## Hands-free is now the law

Beginning next week, drivers will have even more of a reason to set their cell phones aside when behind the wheel.

The Massachusetts Hands-Free Driving Law will officially take effect Sunday, Feb. 23. From then on until March 31, violators who are caught using their cell phones while driving will receive a verbal warning from police. As of April 1, those found guilty of the infraction will get a ticket — starting at \$100 for the first offense.

It is illegal in Massachusetts to compose or read text messages, emails, social media, watch videos, or to use the camera function on cellular devices when behind the wheel of a car.

For repeat offenders, the fines will pile up. A second offense adds a \$250 fine and requires attendance at a distracted driving education course. Third and subsequent offenses bear a penalty of \$500 and a surcharge on the driver's insurance policy.

Gov. Charlie Baker made Massachusetts the 21st state in the nation to prohibit drivers from using cell phones in November of 2019, nearly a decade after the state banned texting while driving in 2010.

According to statistics provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2017 a total of 3,166 fatal motor vehicle accidents occurred nationwide as a result of distracted driving.

The 2018 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Safety Annual Report highlights drivers aged 35 or younger as a concern, largely due to cell phone and smartphone use. In the past three years, these drivers have accounted for half of all distracted drivers in a fatal crash and nearly 60 percent of all drivers in a speed-related fatal crash.

The new law prohibits use of a cell phone unless it is an emergency, while allowing calls to be made in hands-free mode. Drivers should be sure that cell ones are affixed to the dashboard, center console, or windshield of a vehicle. Only one touch or swipe is allowed, to activate GPS or to make or receive an emergency call. Manual dialing a phone number or entering a GPS location is no longer allowed while driving.

Drivers should program their navigation system, and make any calls or send text messages, while stationary before beginning their commute. Text messages should let the recipients know that the sender will be driving and unable to answer any reply immediately.

Many devices, including iPhones, come with a "do not disturb while driving" function. For Android phones, the downloadable app DriveMode also allows for distractions such as incoming calls to be silenced, and even will send automatic responses to let callers know the phone's owner is driving.

For folks who have become used to being "connected" at all times, the new law may feel like an imposition. But it's better to miss a text than to miss a red light. The person on the other end of the line will still be there in five or 20 minutes. With eyes and full attention on the road, so will we.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).



### YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

## Remembering Darcy Davis



Walt Willard

When Agawam loses one of its best leaders, it gets all of us to think about the times we somehow got to know that person. Whenever I think of Cliff Kibbe, I think of our fishing trips. With Harry Leonardi, I remember him being in shock when I caught an errant out-fielder's throw, barehanded,

and flipped it to him. He said "Walter Willard," in a tone of disbelief.

Mr. James Clark hired me, so that's an easy memory. With Jane Durkan, it had to be the time I called her "Jane." For 10 years, it had always been "Miss Durkan." For some unknown reason, "Jane" unexpectedly came out. It was probably the only time I called her that. As I sat in St. John's Church the day of her funeral, that embarrassing moment flashed through my mind.

The recent passing of Darcy Davis got me thinking of my experiences with him. The first I could remember was when I ran the curtain for "Annie Get Your Gun." Since I have no musical talent, unlike my concert pianist friend Elliott Moren and talented trumpeter Andy Raguskus, the electric curtain was perfect for me. Just wait for a certain line ending Act 1 and push the close button. Same thing for Act 2 and 3. How simple can it get?

When I taught for 16 years at AHS, I learned how much Darcy's students loved, respected and appreciated him, but my best memory of Darcy Davis occurred about 10 years ago when I did work

on his Main Street garage. He invited me in one day to show me some of his music memorabilia. The visit was supposed to be 10 minutes, but lasted an hour and a half. It could have been a day and a half. He had so much to show me and a story about every item. For sure, he was proud of his cast members. He touched the lives of thousands of Brownies, probably a greater number than any other coach or teacher who ever worked here in Agawam.

My favorite one of Darcy Davis' stories had to be the time he was ready to perform the musical "Pirates of Penzance" and his tenor, of which he had only one, came down with laryngitis two days before the opening. Desperate for a solution, he made a few phone calls and learned that Longmeadow High had done the same musical the previous year, and their tenor was still in the area. The boy was Peter Carando, who was a freshman at Brown University. Darcy talked him into pinch-hitting, and now we have a great trivia question for all time: Who was the Longmeadow High graduate who sang the lead in "The Pirates of Penzance"?

Darcy telling me that story is what the Mastercard commercial used to end their ad with: Priceless.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



## Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

**A year ago:** At a meeting Feb. 25, 2019, neighbors of the proposed Rosewood Way project and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals expressed concern about traffic and parking concerns at the Mill Street property. Critics disputed a traffic study commissioned by Way Finders, the nonprofit agency developing the affordable housing project, that found no significant harm to adding 62 apartments on Mill Street. Opponents said so many new commuters on Mill Street would be particularly burdensome during arrival and dismissal times at nearby Agawam High School.

**Five years ago:** The School Committee approved a resolution on Feb. 24, 2015, to rename the running track

at Agawam High School after Lou Conte, the school's retired athletic director. He had been campaigning for a new track since 2000, and retired in 2011 with his goal unfulfilled. In retirement, he remained an advocate for what became a project to renovate the school's entire athletic complex. Though the track was renamed, the football field it encloses remains Harmon A. Smith Field, honoring another former AHS coach.

**Ten years ago:** It will cost about \$1,500 to gather the documentation to list the School Street Barn on the National Register of Historic Places, reported the Feb. 25, 2010, Agawam Advertiser News. In addition, the town is looking for \$5,000 in donations to hire a restoration expert to, with more money to be spent on actual renovations once the plans are complete. The barn is located at the southern entrance to School Street Park.

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# Reception for photo show this Friday

The Agawam Public Library will host a reception and awards evening for the Open Juried Photography Show, with music and light refreshments, 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21. Twenty-one awards and a photographer's choice award will be presented, along with a discussion and critique by the

jurors and judges, Sue Fenton and Kevin Fay. A hundred juried entries from 42 photographers have been on display at the library this month. Both the show and the reception are free and open to the public. The show runs through Feb. 28 in the library at 750

Cooper St., Agawam. Entries were judged in four categories: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The photographers in the show come from Western Massachusetts and north-central Connecticut.



"Sloth in Costa Rica" was one of two entries from Pauline Leupo of Agawam.



Larry Sanchez of Feeding Hills has three entries in the exhibit, including "Egret."



"Wilting Coneflowers" by Madeline Catania of Agawam is among the local works on display this month in the Open Juried Photography Show at the Agawam Public Library.



Feeding Hills photographer Diane Savioli-Chase's "The Last Shoe Shine Era" was named an honorable mention in the photojournalism category. An interview with Savioli-Chase appears on page 2.

## SAPELLI ■ from page 1

has been under construction since late 2018. For a year, it has been reduced to just one lane in each direction as half the bridge is demolished and entirely rebuilt. Sapelli highlighted his 2019 accomplishments and also gave updates on several ongoing projects during his State of the City address at the Feb. 18 meeting of the City Council. He said he's hopeful that the MassDOT reconfiguration of Feeding Hills Center — the intersection of North Westfield, Springfield, South Westfield and Southwick streets — will get started this summer or fall. Another state-funded project in town this year is new curbs and sidewalks at O'Brien's Corner, particularly along Springfield Street between North and Rowley streets, to improve safety for students who walk to school along that route. A pedestrian safety project for nearby Maple Street is "about a year and a half away," he said.

**Unified dispatch**  
Following an April 2019 audit that found an "unnerving" oversight in

Agawam's 9-1-1 dispatching procedures — that the Fire Department relies on duty officers to take calls forwarded by the police dispatcher, and that those officers could be called into the field, leaving the "watch room" unattended — Sapelli said the town will be training its police dispatchers to handle fire calls next month, with a centralized dispatch for both public safety agencies starting in April. Sapelli complimented the Police and Fire departments, along with the Agawam Emergency Management Agency, for their service in 2019. He said he had received several letters from residents thanking public safety officers for their skill and professionalism. "We have some outstanding men and women in these forces who are really amazing," Sapelli said.

**Blight properties**  
A priority that continues in 2020 is the fight against blighted properties in town, Sapelli said. He said when he took office, there were 48 properties on the town's list of eyesores. Two years later, every one of them has been demolished or cleaned up, he said. New

properties have been added to the list, however. "We're doing everything we can to address these issues," Sapelli said. He credited the town's building inspector, health agent and Law Department for working with landowners and neighbors to fix up eyesores — whether that means tickets, legal action or simply finding volunteers to help an elderly or disabled resident maintain his or her property. "It's nice to see neighbors helping neighbors," Sapelli said. "Agawam is a great place to live for a variety of reasons; that's just one of them. We try to assist them rather than cite them." **More spending**  
Agawam faces big spending increases for at least two town services in 2020, Sapelli said. The recycling budget will have to increase, Sapelli said. In the past, recycling centers paid the town to take waste paper, glass and plastic, because they could sell those materials

to companies in China. The market for recyclables has dried up, and now communities are going to have to pay recycling centers. "This is going to be a cost increase to the town which wasn't there before," Sapelli said. New federal regulations are also forcing the town to invest more money in its stormwater drain system. The town will now be required to clean each of its 5,000 catchbasins at least once a year, and to sweep streets at least twice a year. Sapelli said this is the year that Agawam will also address flash flooding on streets where it has become a chronic problem, such as Meadow Street and South Park Terrace. **Also coming up**  
Sapelli told city councilors that they can also expect to hear reports from several planning committees in the coming months. One group is looking into how to make Town Hall handicap accessible. Another is coming up with proposals for walking trails

and other recreational facilities at Tuckahoe Turf Farm in southern Feeding Hills. A Zoning Review Committee is tasked with overhauling the town's zoning map, which Sapelli said dates from 40-50 years ago and contains several instances of "spot zoning," where islands of land-use zones have been created to cater to individual property owners, without a wider view of what zoning makes sense for the neighborhood as a whole. Other accomplishments Sapelli touted from the previous year included: • A new focus on technical education at Agawam High School, including a state Pathway Grant for the manufacturing program. • State grants to replace the boiler and improve handicap accessibility in the auditorium at Agawam Junior High School. • The purchase of all town streetlights to allow their conversion to more efficient LEDs. The \$200,000 annual energy savings will pay for the purchase and

conversion cost in five years. • New climate control units to save energy at town schools, purchased with Green Communities state grants. • Installation of three electric vehicle charging stations — at Borgatti Field, the library, and School Street Park — with plans to build more. • New bleachers at youth sports fields, and rubberized surfaces at all town playgrounds. • Revenue increases of \$80,000 at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, under the leadership of General Manager Tom DiRico. • Expansion of the van service at the Senior Center, including the addition of a new vehicle and a full-time scheduler. Sapelli also thanked the many town employees who work "away from the public's view," and acknowledged the City Council and School Committee for working constructively with his administration over the past two years.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH | 2PM & 7:30PM**  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA | SNOW DATE: MARCH 8TH  
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THE JAZZ ENSEMBLES OF  
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STARRING **Brian Lapis**  
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 <p><b>WED., MARCH 18</b></p> <p>Cirque Flip Fabrique: Blizzard UMass Fine Arts Center Amherst, MA</p>	 <p><b>TUES., APRIL 28</b></p> <p>Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre UMass Fine Arts Center Amherst, MA</p>	 <p><b>THURS., JUNE 11</b></p> <p>South Pacific Goodspeed Opera House East Haddam, CT <small>Offered in partnership with the Springfield JCC</small></p>	 <p><b>WED., AUGUST 12</b></p> <p>Anne of Green Gables Goodspeed Opera House East Haddam, CT <small>Offered in partnership with the Springfield JCC</small></p>
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# Students spend a ‘special’ afternoon in Doering basement

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Most middle school students are eager to leave school after a day a learning. But when it’s a chance to cut loose and have some fun, it’s a different story.

A group of sixth graders at Doering School had the opportunity to stay after school for two hours last Thursday so they could engage in several activities during the school’s fifth annual Basement Bash.

The event offered kids several different activities in the school’s basement. This is the level where specialized programs —

physical education, music, computers and art — are held. Organized by the school’s teacher specialists five years ago, it’s only for sixth graders, and is limited to the first 100 kids who sign up.

Students rotate among four different activities, spending about 25 minutes at each one before moving to the next “bash” session. This year’s activities included volleyball, music and band, art, and computer activities.

Teachers said the Basement Bash is a fun and educational way to highlight each of the specialty programs while allowing students to experience various aspects that might be outside the regular curriculum.



Four teams of sixth graders compete simultaneously in a game of four-court volleyball in the Doering School gym, using a giant ball known as an Omnikin ball. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Diane Circosta-Aspinall, left, and Trinity Hamberg have fun “singing” during a karaoke competition between boys and girls in the music room.



In the computer lab, Samantha Browne joined some of her classmates in playing computer games as one of this year’s Basement Bash activities at the middle school.

Left: Dharbi Cooper plays the electric piano keyboard as she and four other sixth grade girls performed a karaoke version of the song “Final Countdown” during last week’s Basement Bash at Doering School.



Charlotte deVillier got creative in the art room during Friday’s event. Taking a large paper tube, she began adding material to transform it into a sculpture of Mickey Mouse.



In the art room, Julien Gebo looks for some inspiration for a project to start by rummaging through a bin filled with odds and ends of material and objects.



Nathan Sinigun joins two of his classmates, Sophia Laprise, left, and Zoe Kellogg-Brodeur, in some creative painting in the middle school’s basement art room.



Kane Carr, left, and Austin Hamberg play computer games as part of the Doering School’s Basement Bash on Feb. 14.



**\$12.50 Each**

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## ATTENTION PARENTS!

Please join us at our final in-person signups to be held

**Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – 2pm @ Agawam Public Library**

Or visit [www. AgawamLittleLeague.com](http://www.AgawamLittleLeague.com) to signup online

**For More Information Contact A.J. Christopher**  
[Ajchristopher2@gmail.com](mailto:Ajchristopher2@gmail.com) 413-575-0055



# SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL



Left: Zach Moccio eyes the basket as he dribbles outside the perimeter. Right: Matt Hotaling fakes with the ball under tight coverage in a game at Holyoke High School last week. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



## Agawam drops key league games, does not qualify for tournament this season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Unfortunately, it has been another disappointing season for the Agawam High School boys basketball team. While the Brownies have been involved in several high-scoring affairs, the Brownies are just 4-15 for the season. The Brownies started the season with an eight-game losing streak before finally

defeating Westfield High School in their ninth game of the season on Jan. 16. The Brownies would then win two of their next four games, and actually won three Suburban League games. But it was not enough to place second in the league and qualify for the tournament. Agawam had one final game in the league to end the season against Minnechaug, but even

with a win, the Brownies will finish at least a full game out of second place. Sabis will finish in second place with at least five wins in the league. Last Friday night, the Brownies were embroiled in a very close game with host Westfield, and ended up falling behind just enough to suffer a 59-56 loss. Agawam had a slim lead at the end of the first quarter, but Westfield went on a 25-8 run in the

second to take a commanding lead at halftime 36-21. Agawam made pretty good comeback, outscoring Westfield 34-23 in the second half. Agawam nearly overtook the Bombers, but were not able to complete the comeback as Westfield avenged a loss from earlier in the season. Max Blanton had a big game with 18 points while Zach Moc-

BASKETBALL | page 10

MIAA

## Sectional tournament important to region

*Editor's note: This is the final article of a four-part series to break down the statewide tournament proposal, what it is, its effect on the Western Mass. region, the challenges, and how your athletic directors and coaches feel about it.*

By Tim Peterson  
sports@turley.com

REGION — One representative from each of the 380 MIAA member high schools will be voting on the new statewide tournament proposal on Feb. 28 at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School located in Marlborough. Several Western Mass. Athletic Directors and coaches have expressed their concerns about the new plan. At the top of the list is how the new statewide tournament will impact the future of the Western Mass. tournaments. "I think the Tournament Management Committee has done a tremendous job of putting together this proposal and they've done their research," said Ludlow Athletic Director Tim Brillo. "The biggest concern in this area is making sure that we can maintain the Western Mass. Championships. I'm hoping we'll still be able to do that." If the new tournament plan does pass on the Feb. 28, a Western Mass. tournament could still

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GIRLS BASKETBALL



Steph Maloni tries to slip a pass into the paint. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Brownies offense struggles in loss to Minnechaug

WILBRAHAM — Last Thursday, despite the Falcons being down one of their top players, Agawam was not able to capitalize and fell on the road 50-24. Agawam's defense continued to play pretty well, limiting the 15-2 Falcons to just 50 points. But Agawam's offense could not gain any momentum, even getting shut out in the third quarter. Steph Maloni was Agawam's top scorer, managing just eight points. Agawam is 4-15 and will not qualify for tournament. They also are 1-6 in the Suburban League.



Ainsley Stevens tries to get a pass away before losing the ball.



Delaney Brown looks around for an open teammate after receiving the ball.



Keeley Cote eyes the basket for a free throw.



# Sports

## MIAA Bracketology returning soon

March Madness is coming, and for the second straight year, Turley Sports will bring you "MIAA bracketology."

In two weeks, in our February 27 and 28 issues of all Turley Publications papers, the sports department will be presenting its picks for the MIAA Western Massachusetts Tournaments. There will be four brackets for boys basketball, and four brackets for girls basketball.

The brackets will detail our picks to make it all the way to our own sectional championships, held right at the famed Curry Hicks Cage on the campus of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Will we be right, or will we be wrong? Who knows. But we sincerely hope our readers enjoy following the progress of the Western Mass. tournament, that is one of the most popular tournaments that takes place in the year. Whether it is Division 1 or

Division 4, the basketball tournaments are some of most exciting action of the year.

The brackets we will be presenting in two weeks will reflect simple guesses on the part of Turley Sports with short commentary below each bracket to explain our brackets. We encourage you to compare our brackets to your own. We hope you enjoy watching the tournament unfold from Feb. 24 when the first round is scheduled to begin, all the way to Curry Hicks Cage on March 7 and 8.

The tournament brackets are scheduled to be released on Saturday, Feb. 22. The Turley Sports bracketology will be prepared the following day prior to the start of the tournament, and then will be available online through our turley.com website and will be published in the papers available Thursday, Feb. 27 and Friday, Feb. 28. Happy tournament to all!

## Thunderbirds sweep Checkers in weekend series on the road

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-23-2-0) again erased an early deficit en route to a 4-3 win over the Charlotte Checkers (29-18-4-0) on Sunday afternoon inside the Bojangles' Coliseum. It was the first weekend sweep for the T-Birds in Charlotte in their history.

For a second straight game, the Checkers power play would draw first blood. This time around, the T-Birds went down two men on back-to-back penalties just 12 seconds apart, and with just seconds remaining on the disadvantage, Gustav Forsling blasted a one-timer from the right point that squeaked between the legs of Ryan Bednard to give Charlotte a 1-0 lead at 12:48 of the opening frame.

Bednard was otherwise perfect in an opening period onslaught of 15 shots from the Checkers, including five from Forsling alone. Anton Forsberg was not as busy in the Checkers' goal crease, as he turned away eight shots in the opening period and went almost eight minutes without seeing a shot at the onset of the game.

The Springfield power play, rejuvenated by Rodrigo Abols' overtime tally the night before, struck on its first chance at 6:35 of the second with former Checker Aleks Saarela rifling a one-time, cross-box pass from Henrik Borgstrom over the glove of Forsberg to tie the score, 1-1.

Charlotte would vault back to the lead at 11:51 when Dave Gust picked up a puck

in the left circle off a shot block and snapping it over the shoulder of Bednard to give the Checkers their second lead, 2-1.

This lead, however, would last but 46 seconds. Borgstrom created an amazing play by throwing a between-the-legs pass through a defender to a cutting Ethan Prow, who backhanded a rising shot into the cage to tie it up again, 2-2, at 12:37.

The 2-2 tie carried into the early stages of the third as Forsberg and Bednard continued to trade strong netminder plays and saves. After Springfield had eight of the first nine shots in the third without a result, the top line finally broke through at 12:42. After Roland McKeown had a puck hop past him at the left point, Saarela and Dryden Hunt set sail for the offensive zone in a 2-on-0. Saarela held onto the puck as long as possible before slipping a pass back to Hunt, who slammed it through the legs of Forsberg to make it 3-2 with 7:18 to play. It was Hunt's second goal and third point in two games on the weekend.

Those two would not be finished, though, as Saarela hit Hunt for an empty-net walk-in with 1:20 to play, which would turn out to be the game-winner after Steven Lorentz got Charlotte back to a 4-3 deficit with just 30 seconds remaining.

Bednard improved to 4-1 in his five AHL decisions as a netminder, stopping 33 of 36 for the victory, while Forsberg had 27 saves in defeat.

## State tournament information meeting scheduled for Feb. 24

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Tournament Management Committee (TMC) has scheduled the regional meetings. These meetings will include an overview presentation of the Statewide Tournament Proposal provided by members of the MIAA TMC, followed by a question-and-answer session.

These informational meetings are a

great opportunity to enhance understanding of the Statewide Tournament Proposal and provide feedback to the TMC. The meetings are open to Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials and Media.

The Western Massachusetts meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 24 at Chicopee Comprehensive High School at 6 p.m.

### BASKETBALL ■ from page 9



Dylan Wesley tries to make a pass from the sideline.



Josiah Bass-Collins makes the inbound pass.

cio had 14 points. Mike Berthiaume had 13 points.

Westfield had a much more balanced scoring attack, with 10 different players registering points.

Agawam also suffered losses at Holyoke and West Springfield during the past week. The West Springfield loss was close, 62-58 and was also a key loss as Agawam was looking for that opportunity to finish in second place or at least tie for the spot.

Agawam got off to a slow start and their defense did a poor job as West Springfield was able to build a little bit of a cushion early. Agawam came back to make the game close, but couldn't complete the comeback.

Josiah Bass-Collins had 19 points, Blanton had 14 points, and Moccio finished with 10 points.

Agawam will miss the playoffs for the fourth straight season.



Mike Berthiaume takes a free throw.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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**HOUSING ■ from page 1**

Way Finders, the Springfield-based non-profit that owns 586 Mill St., Feeding Hills, has asked for \$586,000 of Community Preservation Act money to help build a 63-unit apartment complex called Rosewood Way on 8.5 acres of the former farm. Forty-seven of the units would be classified as “affordable housing” — subsidized units for individuals or families earning 80 percent or less of the region’s median income.

Way Finders was able to sidestep local zoning by receiving a state permit under Chapter 40B. This option is open to projects in which at least 25 percent of the units are “affordable,” as long as the town’s housing stock is less than 10 percent affordable. Just 4 percent of Agawam’s housing units qualify as affordable.

“We need to look at how families can stay in Agawam,” said Councilor Rosemary Sandlin. “I think we are all being short-sighted. We have to look at this as what we need for our residents.”

She said during her time as an aide in the state Senate, and later as an elected state representative, she worked to help several Agawam residents who could no longer afford to live in town after losing income through a divorce or the death of a spouse. With long waiting lists for existing subsidized housing projects, many of those people were forced to move out of town, she said.

**Reduced payment**

The \$586,000 payment received a positive recommendation from the Community Preservation Act Committee, but a 4-0 negative recommendation from the council’s Community Relations Subcommittee.

Johnson proposed reducing the payment from \$12,000 per affordable unit to \$7,000 per affordable unit, for a total expense of \$329,000. Though the amendment appeared to pass, 5-4, Johnson declared it to have failed, as two abstentions prevented the amendment from achieving the six votes required for a majority of the full council. Cecilia Calabrese and Mario Tedeschi were the two abstentions. Voting “no” were George Bitzas, Paul Cavallo, Robert Rossi and Gerald Smith.

Bitzas said spending taxpayer money on Rosewood Way would be “a colossal mistake,” and said he preferred that the funds be spent on projects that would be guaranteed to help current Agawam residents, such as grants to help elderly residents stay in their homes, or renovating blighted properties to serve as town-owned affordable housing.

Cavallo, Rossi and Smith, too, objected to spending funds without a “guarantee” that the state would support a local resident preference. Smith said the town’s greatest need is affordable housing for its senior citizens. He faulted Way Finders for not answering this particular need.

“We have to take care of our own people

first,” added Rossi. “Way Finders is very capable. ... I don’t think they really need Agawam’s \$500,000.”

Johnson responded that the Way Finders project will be built regardless of whether Agawam contributes CPA funds, and acknowledged that the local preference lottery is not guaranteed. He said chances are “slim to none,” though, that the state would approve a local preference if the town government does not demonstrate its support for the project. He said he’d be willing to compromise with a lower payment figure.

In comments at the start of the meeting, Housing Committee member Corrine Wingard also stressed the importance of making some payment, even if it is not the full \$586,000. She said she is “very afraid” that failing to support the project would result in losing the local preference, and in Way Finders trying to save money by cutting amenities from the project.

Rossi objected to the implication that Way Finders would deliver a lesser-quality project if the town did not share the cost.

“What does that say about the integrity of that program? Not very much, in my eyes,” he said.

Cavallo also questioned Way Finders’ need for Agawam funding as the nonprofit is nearly finished building a \$16.5 million headquarters at the former Peter Pan property in Springfield.

Even Letellier, who supported spending money on the project, said Way Finders

had been “disingenuous” in not making it clear, from the start of discussions on the project, that they would be asking for half a million dollars of local funds. She also said she continues to have misgivings about an apartment complex on Mill Street.

“I still think it’s a lousy location,” she said. “Nonetheless, they’ve purchased it and it’s going to go forward. We need to discuss a number we can live with. To just say ‘no’ is unacceptable.”

Councilor Dino Mercadante noted that the CPA is funded not only by a 1 percent surcharge on local property taxes, but also by matching grants from the state government. He said he would be willing to support a payment to Way Finders equal to the amount of housing money received from the state.

After the first attempt at an amendment failed, Cavallo proposed a \$200,000 payment and Letellier made a “charter objection,” a rare parliamentary maneuver that stops debate. The charter objection, which can be used only once on any particular topic, postpones a vote until the council’s next meeting.

Letellier said she hopes delaying the vote will give proponents of the spending time to gather answers about local preference lotteries and the proportion of state and local funds in the CPA account, and determine a funding level that can achieve majority support on the council.

**TOURNEY ■ from page 9**

possibly be held during the final week of the regular season in each team sport.

“It might be like how the NCAA does it now in basketball,” added Brillo, who’s currently a member of the MIAA Board of Directors. “They hold a conference tournament prior to the start of the NCAA tournament. I’m really hoping that we can do the same type of thing with all of our sports. Changes are always scary and difficult.”

At its January meeting, the Board of Directors voted 14-3 in favor of the statewide tournament proposal.

Brillo isn’t really sure what the outcome of the vote will be on Feb. 28.

If the new statewide plan is approved, it will go into effect at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Currently the winner of each Division of the Western Mass. tournaments faces the winning team of the Central Mass. tournament

in the state semifinals. The winner of that contest plays the Eastern Mass. champion in the state finals.

“There are some inequities on how a team currently gets into the tournament,” Brillo said. “There is a seeding inequity and there is a difference in number of games played, especially in Eastern Mass., to get to the state finals.”

Under the new statewide plan, the top 32 teams in each Division will be ranked by Maxpreps and they’ll automatically qualify for the postseason tournament. All of the other teams that finish with a .500 or better record will also qualify for the tournament. The teams will be put in four brackets similar to the NCAA basketball tournament.

The finals of the Western Mass. girls and boys basketball tournaments are currently held at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass-Amherst campus. It’s the one place all of the varsity basketball

players from Western Mass. dreams about playing a game at that special venue.

“All of our basketball teams have really enjoyed the experience of playing at the Cage in the past,” said Ware boys varsity basketball coach Gene Rich. “It would be nice if we’re able to keep the Western Mass. tournament. You could play one of your rivals in the tournament. I would hate to break up something that works.”

Rich is also the Principal at Ware High School.

All of the Western Mass. tournaments are run by the PVIAC.

Lou Conte is the PVIAC Executive Secretary and Jeff Boudway is the PVIAC Administrative Assistant.

“The PVIAC has done a great job and it has been commended many times by the MIAA for the way it conducts business in this part of the state,” Rich said. “They do the tournament seedings and make the

tournament schedules for each sport.”

The Central Mass. basketball tournament is normally held at the Harrington Auditorium located on the W.P.I. campus in Worcester. A longtime Central Mass. girls varsity basketball coach always says that playing a tournament game at W.P.I. is like going to Disney World for his players.

The Clark Tournament, which is held during the February school vacation week, is another popular basketball tournament in Central Massachusetts.

All of the high schools will have to insert their win and loss records to Maxpreps in order for the new system to be successful.

The first and second finishers in almost every league also currently qualify for the postseason tournament, but that will no longer take place under the new plan.

Minnechaug Regional

High School Athletic Director Michael Roy said he would like to see more clarity on the way Maxpreps will choose rankings.

“They have not really clarified the format Maxpreps will use to judge the games,” said Roy. “That makes it hard to judge this tournament proposal.”

The South Hadley girls basketball team will finish the regular season with a below .500 overall record, but they still clinched a berth in the Western Mass. Division 3 tournament by finishing in second place in the Suburban League.

While Brillo is the Athletic Director of a large high school that currently competes at the Division 1 and 2 levels, Rich coach’s basketball at a smaller high school that competes at the Division 4 level in most sports.

“It might be a struggle for a smaller high schools like us,” said Rich. “Financially, it could put a little bit of a burden on our athletic

budget if we’re forced to travel to Eastern Mass. to play a tournament game. It’s the same problem for every small high school in the state and we’ll just have to think outside the box.”

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton and South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay have both said they are opposed to the proposal. Castonguay believes the proposal only benefits the eastern part of the state. Stratton says the Western Mass. tournament is important to the region.

“Even though the sectional tournament would change the path to a state final to be more equitable,” said Stratton. “I feel the sectional playoff process works.”

No matter the outcome of the vote on Feb. 28, the landscape of high school sports in Western Massachusetts will probably be changing during the next couple of years.

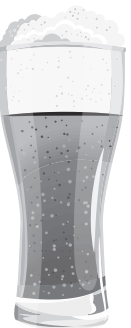
## Vendors sought for Leap Day tag sale

Agawam Congregational Church will hold a huge, special, leap year tag sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28-29. This sale promises something for everyone.

Interested vendors may request an application from the church office at 413-

786-7111 or [agawamcongregationalchurch.com](mailto:agawamcongregationalchurch.com), according to tag sale chairman and church member Dale Melanson.

The church, at 745 Main St., Agawam, is handicapped accessible, with a large parking lot.



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# Schools & Youth

## School Lunch

All lunches served with fresh and chilled fruit. Instead of the main entrée, students can substitute a deluxe salad or the sandwich of the day.

**AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL**  
High schoolers can also substitute a pizza meal for their entrée.

**Monday, Feb. 24:** Cheesburger, Boston baked beans, chips, cucumber and tomato salad; or popcorn chicken bowl, whipped potatoes, corn niblets, dinner roll.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25:** Asian chicken, Mandarin rice, broccoli, fortune cookie; or mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, celery and cucumber with dip, garlic knot.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26:** Chicken fillet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato, cheese, side of coleslaw.

**Thursday, Feb. 27:** Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing; or pasta with meatballs, garlic knot, seasoned vegetable.

**Friday, Feb. 28:** Turkey and gravy, whipped potato, seasoned corn, dinner roll; or beef taco boat, shredded lettuce and tomato, shredded cheese, salsa, sour cream, rice and beans.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**Monday, Feb. 24:** Chicken patty sandwich, shredded romaine lettuce, sliced tomatoes, green beans.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25:** French toast sticks, turkey sausage, hash brown.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** Pasta with marinara sauce, shredded cheese cup, garlic bread stick, broccoli.

**Thursday, Feb. 26:** Tuna boat, pickle spear, crinkle-cut fries, carrots with dip.

**Friday, Feb. 27:** Pizza quesadilla, chicken or cheese, garden salad with chickpeas, baked cookie.

**BREAKFAST**  
The daily breakfast entrée menu was not available at press time. All breakfasts include assorted cold cereal, muffins and pastries, cheese sticks, fresh fruit and orange juice.

**Serving times:** High school, 7 a.m.; junior high, 7:15 a.m.; Granger, 7:55 a.m.; Doering, 8:10 a.m.; Phelps, 8:20 a.m.; Robinson Park, 8:30 a.m.; Clark, 8:35 a.m.



Agawam students with perfect MCAS scores in 2019 pose for a photo with School Committee members and, at left, School Superintendent Steve Lemanski, Assistant Superintendent Sheila Hoffman, and Mayor William Sapelli.
 PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

## Students recognized for perfect MCAS

Fifteen students who received perfect scores for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 math, science and English-language arts on the 2019 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests were recognized at the Feb. 11 School Committee meeting.

School Superintendent Steve Lemanski presented students with certificates at the recognition ceremony for their outstanding accomplishment. Students who attended the ceremony were then congratulated by School Committee members.

The tests were administered in spring 2019. Students who achieved perfect MCAS scores last year are listed below by their grade level when they took the test.

**Grade 3:** Aysegul Kaplan, math; Kassidy Menard, ELA; Mia Zordani, ELA.

**Grade 4:** Leah Cizek, math.

**Grade 5:** Kayleigh Garvey, ELA.

**Grade 6:** Lucy Chivers, ELA; Abigail Drumm, math; Minje Kim, math; Emma LaCaresse, math; Anna Zhao, ELA.

**Grade 8:** Dylan Fisk, math.

**Grade 10:** David Dagenais, math; Hanna Davydov, science; Christian Rua, math; Anna Shlemanov, math.

## Garden Club offering scholarships

Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden Club scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship, students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School. Applicants must be majoring, or planning on majoring, in biology, botany, clean energy, earth systems, environmental engineering, environmental science, forest management, landscape design and management technology, natural resources, plant soil and insect science, sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, wastewater technology studies or some other environmental-related studies.

Applications are available through Agawam High School. For more information or to request an application, call Denise 413-454-5800.

## Reading Program ends this Saturday

The Agawam Public Library's Winter Reading Program ends this Saturday, Feb. 22.

As part of the program, children and teenagers tracked their reading in January and February. Upon reaching their goal, they

earn a free book to keep. For more information, visit the Children's Room in the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, or contact Children's Librarian Pam Weingart at 413-789-1550 or pweingart@agawamlibrary.org.

## Public Notices

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**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-8600**

**Docket No. HD20P0274EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**JAMES P CEBRELLI**  
**Date of Death:**  
**January 10, 2020**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **DONNA M MOORE** of SOUTH HADLEY, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**DONNA M MOORE** of SOUTH HADLEY, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform

Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 2/20/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Division**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**

**(413)748-8600**  
**Docket No. HD20P0265EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Raymond Leonard Eggleston**  
**Date of Death:**  
**11/21/2019**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Gene R. Eggleston** of Feeding Hills, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Gene R. Eggleston** of Feeding Hills, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the admin-

istration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

2/20/2020  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C.255, Section 38A, that on the following date, February 28, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.



# Out & About

Out & About is a community calendar for Agawam and neighboring towns. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Agawam or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Agawam, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), faxed to 413-283-7107 or mailed to Agawam Advertiser News, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Friday, the week before that Thursday's newspaper.

### Saturday, Feb. 22

WINTERFEST in downtown West Springfield, 9 a.m. to noon. Activities at various locations along Elm and Park streets include clown performances, temporary tattoos, library crafts and a musical performance by Alexis Anamisis. All events are free.

### Sunday, Feb. 23

SNAPSHOTS OF CIVIL RIGHTS CONCERT at First Church of Christ, 763 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, 4 p.m. All are invited to a free concert of music by composer Anita Anderson Cooper with lyrics from the writings and speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer, Robert Kennedy, Charles McLaurin, Langston Hughes and more. Performers include Rob Adams, Marco Bonilla, Michaela Bowen, Dan Inglis, Karen McCarthy, Margaret Pash, Ben Peterson, John Thomas, the New Amherst Choir and the First Church of Chris Choir. More info: [andercoop160@gmail.com](mailto:andercoop160@gmail.com).

### Wednesday, Feb. 26

BLACK HISTORY OPEN MIC NIGHT in Room 18 of the Ely Campus Center at Westfield State University, 577 Western Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. All are welcome to perform works representing black artists, poets, musicians, etc., as part of Black His/Herstory Month at WSU.

### Thursday, Feb. 27

JAMES BALDWIN FILM in Room 18 of the Ely Campus Center at Westfield State University, 577 Western Ave., Westfield, 4 p.m. "I Am Not Your Negro" will be screened, with a guided discussion with English professor Carol Bailey, as part of Black His/Herstory Month at WSU.

### Friday, Feb. 28

LEAP YEAR TAG SALE at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Something for everyone. Continues Saturday.

## Agawam Senior Center

The Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam, is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0605. Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m. for a \$3 suggested donation; diners must register 24 hours in advance at 413-821-0604.

### Lunch Menu

**Monday, Feb. 24:** Pasta Fagioli, ham and cheese sandwich (lettuce and tomato), fresh fruit.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25:** Fat Tuesday — paella, three-bean salad, kings cake.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26:** Broccoli and cheddar quiche, hash browns, coleslaw, fruit cocktail.

**Thursday, Feb. 27:** Swedish meatballs, egg noodles, mixed vegetables, pudding.

**Friday, Feb. 28:** Fish in Florentine sauce, rice pilaf, buttered spinach, pineapple.

### Daily Events

**Monday, Feb. 24:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; line dancing (\$3), 9:45 a.m.; CBD oil seminar, 10 a.m.; chair yoga (\$6), 11:30 a.m.; bridge group, 12:30 p.m.; bingo, 1 p.m.; grandparents group, 1 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.; line dancing, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; knitting, 9 a.m.; Ask the Techs computer help, 10 a.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 10:15 a.m.; ladies billiards, noon; Senior Cinemas ("Funny Girl"), 12:30 p.m.; mah jongg, 12:30 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; writing group, 1:30 p.m.; beginner line dancing, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 26:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 9:45 a.m.; bereavement group, 10 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; ballroom lesson (see staff), 1 p.m.; Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.; essential oils class, 5:30 p.m.; line dancing, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 27:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; Quilting Club, 9 a.m.; new member group, 9:30 a.m.; Wii Sports, 10:15 a.m.; reiki (\$10), 10:30 a.m.; bridge, 12:15 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; open art, 1 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4 p.m.; cancer support group, 5:30 p.m.; line dancing, 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 28:** Yin Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Let's Paint (\$10), 9:15 a.m.; tai chi (\$6), 10 a.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; cornhole, 1 p.m.; cribbage, 1 p.m.; card games, 1 p.m.; line dancing, 6 p.m.

### Saturday, Feb. 29

LEAP YEAR TAG SALE at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Continued from Friday.

### Tuesday, March 3

FREE LUNCH FOR VETERANS (and one guest) at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. These lunches are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

### Thursday, March 5

TAVERN DINNER FUNDRAISER at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, 5-7 p.m. A hearty French meat pie dinner will be served for a donation of \$15 per adult, \$10 per child, to benefit preservation of the 1805 building. Take-out is available.

### Friday, March 6

WOMEN OF '76 free performance at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, 7 p.m. Rita Parisi will portray a Hessian general's wife, a minutewoman and spy catcher, and a Southern frontierswoman in this one-woman show about the American Revolution, part of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series. Doors open at 6:15. More info: [agawamcc.org](http://agawamcc.org).

### ONGOING

NAMI CONNECTION, a free, peer-led support group for adults who are concerned about their mental health, meets Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., in the NAMI Western Massachusetts office at 324A Springfield St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-9139 or email [information@namiwam.org](mailto:information@namiwam.org).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS can help with eating problems. Meetings are held throughout Western Massachusetts, including regular meetings in Agawam. There are no dues, fees, weigh-ins or special foods to buy. All are welcome. For more information, call Springfield Answering Services at 413-783-4198 or Marcia at 703-415-6744, or visit [www.oawmass.org](http://www.oawmass.org).

THE TRADING POST consignment shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., Agawam. The Trading Post carries a variety of items, including clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, toys, household and gift items. Donations are welcomed during store hours.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peirce Confer-

ence Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email [RosemarySandlin@rosemarysandlin@gmail.com](mailto:RosemarySandlin@rosemarysandlin@gmail.com).

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers a free "Crochet Club" the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. All are invited to join, including men and women and beginners to experienced crocheters. Drop-ins welcome. Hooks and yarn available if needed. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, call Lilian at 413-568-2916.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

RSVP OF THE PIONEER VALLEY is in need of volunteers to drive seniors to get groceries, visit their doctor and fill prescriptions. If you have two hours weekly, a dependable vehicle and really want to make a difference, contact Pat Sicard, RSVP Volunteer Manager, at 413-387-4558, ext. 1, or [psicard@hcg-ma.org](mailto:psicard@hcg-ma.org).

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP, facilitated by The Atrium at Cardinal Drive through the Alzheimer's Association, meets the first Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam. All are welcome. To register, call 413-821-9911.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at [www.survivorjourneys.org](http://www.survivorjourneys.org).

## Library to offer adult basic computer classes

Adult basic computer classes will be offered at the Agawam library from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on 10 consecutive Mondays, from Feb. 24 to May 4.

Topics that may be covered include navigating Windows, surfing the Web, working with email, using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Microsoft PowerPoint, depending on the needs of the class. Participants can suggest topics by calling instructor Jackie

Owens at 413-786-0606. Participants should plan to attend all sessions. Space is limited to 10 people.

To register, call the Reference Desk at 413-789-1550, ext. 8862. Owens has extensive experience teaching basic computing essentials and teaching Microsoft Office applications, most recently at the Millennium Training Institute in Woburn. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

## Info session planned for tour of Ireland

WEST SPRINGFIELD — An informational session about an 11-day fall tour to Ireland will be held at noon Saturday, March 7, at the Irish Cultural Center, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield.

Participants will experience coastal scenery, charming towns, castles, museums a distillery and more, with stays at top-rated hotels in Kinsale, Dingle and Ennis. The trip includes direct flights between Boston and

Shannon, transportation between the airport and West Springfield, eight dinners, and breakfast every day.

The total cost of the trip is \$2,950 per person, double occupancy, or \$3,375 per single. A \$1,300 per person deposit is required to reserve space on the tour. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come basis. For more information, an itinerary and a reservation application, visit [IrishCenterWNE.org](http://IrishCenterWNE.org).

## Author to discuss 'ghost ship' wreck

Author Jill Farinelli will discuss "The Palatine Wreck: The Legend of the New England Ghost Ship" at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at the Agawam Public Library.

The wreck of the British merchant ship Palatine occurred two days before Christmas in 1738, off the coast of Rhode Island. From this incident sprang one of New England's most chilling maritime mysteries. How did the rumors at the heart of the stories begin?

This is Farinelli's first work of historical non-fiction, on a subject that captured her imagination after spending a week with friends on Block Island 10 years ago.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information or to register for this free event, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org). The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

## Annual Agawam Day in Florida returns in March

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The 39th annual Agawam Day in Florida will be held Wednesday, March 4, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Petersburg, Fla., for a reunion, picnic,

raffles, hugs and old memories. Every year between 60 and 100 former residents and "snowbirds" show up for the party.

For information on the March event, contact organizer Hank Drewnowski at 860-462-7273 or [hdrew2452@gmail.com](mailto:hdrew2452@gmail.com).

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Agawam Advertiser News

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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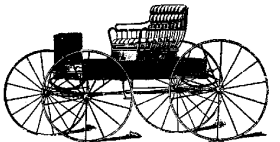
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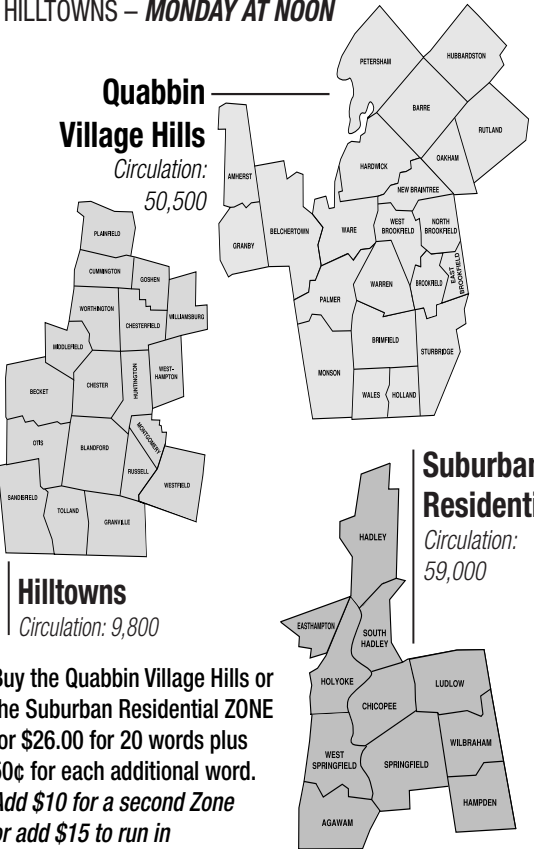
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## PETS

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Provide a safe home for children and teens who have been abused or neglected. **Call Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care 413-734-2493**

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This part-time (up to 20 hrs./week), grant funded, temporary, non-benefited position will help train elders and individuals with disabilities to gain greater independence through access and use of fixed-route public transportation. The trainer will conduct needs assessments, develop training plans and conduct individual and small group training sessions to help individuals learn to use fixed-route bus service. Review detailed job description and qualification requirements under Careers at www.pvta.com. \$16.00/hour. Please upload cover letter and resume via our website or mail to: PVTA, Attn: HR Manager, 2808 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107. EEO/ AA/DF

**MONSON COUNCIL ON AGING** seeking baker. Prepare and coordinate continental breakfast twice a week. Prepare baked goods for meals. 12+ hours a week. Minimum wage. Send cover letter and resume to 106 Main Street, Monson, MA

## HELP WANTED

### PARK MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDSKEEPER

Position (seasonal/part-time)  
Applicant will be responsible for general maintenance of Memorial Park and baseball fields as well as the baseball/ soccer fields at Thornton Burgess. Job description and application forms can be found at <https://www.hampdenma.gov/town-administrator/pages/board-openings-job-postings>. Please submit to Hampden Parks and Recreation 625 Main Street, Hampden MA 01036. **(413)566-2151 x108**.

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Interested persons should email RESUME to [edddriver92@gmail.com](mailto:edddriver92@gmail.com) At least, RESUME must state applicants contact info, age, sex, marital status, height, weight, health status with documentation, current and recent employment and wages received, names and contact info for 2 or more references, and QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A HOME AID TO ME. Most qualified applicants will be invited for an interview and home visit within two weeks of receipt of their emails.

#### SHARED LIVING-

seeking families to share their home with individuals with developmental disabilities. Call **413-734-2493** for more information.

#### TOWN OF WILBRAHAM P/T ADMIN. ASSISTANT - PLANNING & ZONING

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## REAL ESTATE

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## FOR RENT



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Send resume with cover letter to:  
**ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCH**

c/o South Hadley Housing Authority,  
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SPOTLIGHT ON ART

Bob LeClair

*Editor's note: This is the third in a monthly series by the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans showcasing local artists.*

This month we are proud to spotlight Bob LeClair who is known for his “automata.”

LeClair is an Agawam artisan who works with wood. He makes automata, animated mechanical toys that move when powered by the user turning a crank or pushing on a paddle.

He feels the more people use today’s electronic devices, the more they become attracted to things like these toys. There is a tactile appeal to wood and a curiosity of how things work. Part of his creative process is to expose the working mechanics of the piece.

He started making these pieces seven

years ago after seeing a video on YouTube. A few years later he attended the first-ever U.S. automata convention and was amazed by the makers that had come from all over the world, and how creativity was alive and well.

LeClair encourages people to let go of their inhibitions and give being creative a try. Tutorials can help new artists achieve satisfaction by making something they previously dismissed as unapproachable. LeClair is currently learning how to draw and paint — things he thought he could never do.

His website, [www.elbertw.com](http://www.elbertw.com), has videos of automata in action and other curiosities.

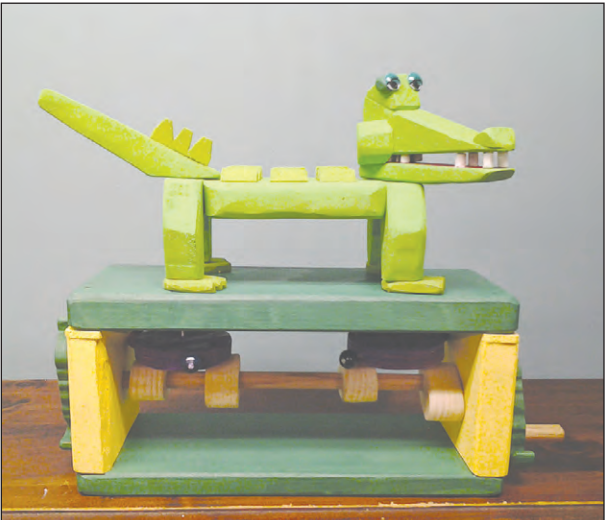
Agawam’s Bob LeClair at work on his “automata,” creative mechanical toys. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



“Flying Fish” by Bob LeClair.



“Ice Fisherman,” by Bob LeClair.



“Snappy,” by Bob LeClair.

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